# India

FOR THE

No. 138. New Series.] No. 232. Old Series.] WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1900. [Registered as a Newspaper. | Price...... 2d. By Post, 2½d.



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## NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Viceroy is at last able to telegraph (August 20) the good news of continued rainfall, heavy and general, in most tracts affected by the famine. In the Central Provinces and Berar the crops already show good promise, and elsewhere the people are actively engaged in putting the seed in the ground. There need be no surprise at the "increase in number on gratuitous relief in free kitchens," in view of the apparent decrease on relief works. The general total on relief shows a diminution, at 5,688,000; but the result is disturbed by the intimation that the Bombay returns are incomplete. The prices continue to rule high everywhere, whether because the stocks are depleted or because traders are not quite satisfied that the favourable point has been reached and turned. The hands of the Government are still very full, it will be seen, and every little will help to smooth their path towards a recovery.

The Governor of Bombay reports (August 20) that Gujerat and Kathiawar have at length been drenched with "heavy and most useful rain," and the rest of the affected tracts in the Presidency have been favoured with a "generally sufficient" rainfall. At the same time the numbers on relief have decreased, though the specific decrease is not stated. Has the official writer of the telegram overlooked the incompleteness of the Bombay returns for the week? The number of deaths on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts in the Presidency still stands very high, at 7,008, or 4·7 per thousand. There is no indication of the main causes of death, but no doubt they are chiefly traceable to the prevalence of the famine. The cholera is still raging with undiminished virulence, but this week the largest number of cases, and of fatal cases, are assigned to Native States; the famine-stricken districts (presumably British) have 5,686 cases, of which 3,704 were fatal, while the Native States have 6,947, 4,935 of them fatal. These figures impress but too vividly the distressful condition of the country.

The contention that the Native States have failed in their duty during the famine receives less and less support as time goes on. The further afield the Correspondents go the more States are added to the list of those which have risen to a high conception of what the situation requires of them. The Correspondent of the *Times of India*, a great Anglo-Indian organ, has visited Kishengarh, and speaks thus:—

> Whilst your Special Correspondent in the famine districts has done full justice to the splendid work in relieving distress carried out by the Jaipur Durbar, the no less excellent and generous programme executed by the Mahárájá of Kishengarh has been allowed to pass unnoticed.

Of course a small and poor State like this could not depend on its immediate resources, and it received both a loan from the Government of India and a grant from the Central Relief Fund, but of what it thus obtained it made excellent use.

As usual in Native States, there was something distinctive in the relief arrangements. Two points in Kishengarh were especially noteworthy—first, the attention given to the sinking of wells and the success attained in that direction, and secondly, the saving of great numbers of cattle by the use of prickly pears, long known as a substitute for fodder in a time of drought, and on this occasion provided by the Government of the State. The system of relief was under the direction of the Dewan, Rao Bahadur Syam Sundar Lal, "who took his orders personally from the Mahárájá." The result is thus summed up by the Correspondent of the *Times of India*:—

> The famine policy of the Kishengarh Durbar was prompt, sufficient, and judicious. Measures were taken in good time, remissions of revenue were freely granted, and the relief programme was elastic, comprehensive, and generous.

This is high praise; but it will not prevent the whole of the failures in famine administration being attributed to the wickedness and incompetence of the Indians.

A letter to the *Times of India*, signed "J.", which occupies three columns and a-half of the weekly issue of that paper, gives many figures in support of the contention that the remissions of revenue in the famine districts have been very slight. Thus in the Poona district, though the out-turn has been only 14·2 per cent., 52 per cent. of the total revenue demand has been realised. Other cases are worse still. In Surat the out-turn is only 6·2 per cent. of that of the previous year, while 95 per cent. of the revenue has been realised. In Sholapur the figures are 9·2 and 70; in Khandesh 3·1 and 60. The figures under the head of out-turn relate to crops only, but the loss of cattle has been one of the great characteristics of the present famine. The whole letter, full as it is of statistics, is worthy of careful study.

A writer in the August number of *Temple Bar* explains a method of famine relief practised successfully by himself some twenty years ago. He says:—

> I organised a labour camp for three hundred famine convalescents, who, had they been sent back to their own homes, would, in the hopeless state of the country at that time, very soon have starved to death. The camp, which was not enclosed, presented the appearance of a clean street in a thriving village. It contained a small house for the camp superintendent, and two subsidised shops for the sale of the simple necessaries of life. The labour, though light as play, was continuous, and kept the men out all day, while their women folk remained at home to look after the house and cook the dinners. If a woman wished to accompany her husband and add an honest penny to the family purse she was allowed to do so. At sunset the work-people returned in a body, drew their wages, and bought supplies for the next day. The scheme worked well. The camp population was happy in its self-respect, and no healthier village community could be found in the neighbourhood. Why the plan was not more generally adopted it is not easy to say.

Anyhow, it is well to have on record a plan that proved useful, and possibly it was not "more generally adopted" because it was not generally known.

At Ostend on Saturday last, August 18, a deputation of eleven Parsi gentlemen waited upon the Shah of Persia and presented three addresses to him—one from the Zoroastrians in Persia, another from Parsis in Bombay, and the third from Parsis in the United Kingdom. The Shah received the deputation with great courtesy and cordiality and gave them satisfactory assurances as to his past and future treatment of the Zoroastrians in Persia. He referred to the Parsis of India as a distinguished community. An address from the Persian Zoroastrians was subsequently presented to his Prime Minister who gave similar assurances in reply. The deputation consisted of Messrs. Dadabhai Naoroji, M. Sethra, Edalji Dinsha, D. Beramji, C. Beramji, N. J. Moolla, M. R. Boyce, M. C. Petit, D. Mody, K. N. Kabraji, and Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, M.P.

An article "from a correspondent" in the *Morning Post* of August 20, deals with the section of the Indian Expenditure Report on the apportionment of the charges between the Home and Indian Governments. The writer thinks

that, in the circumstances, "it is not superfluous to consider whether the majority report, with the significant notes of reservation recorded by eminent members like Sir A. Scoble, Sir. R. Mowbray, Sir James Peile, and Mr. Buchanan, does not indicate that more relief should in fact be granted than its restricted specific recommendation in this respect would have given reason to suppose." Remarking on the notable rise in military expenditure and the different opinions about the restraining power of the Finance Minister, he says:—

Two ex-Indian Finance Ministers, Sir D. Barbour and Sir A. Colvin, thought the power of the Finance Minister to check increases in expenditure had been impaired in recent years. The majority report accepted the opinion of Lords Northbrook, Ripon, Lansdowne, and Cromer to the effect that the members of the Viceroy's Council fully recognise their collective responsibility in financial questions; but surely the minority report has the best of the argument when it points out that the value of the objection of Lords Cromer, Northbrook, Ripon, Lansdowne, and Roberts to the position taken up by the two ex-Finance Ministers is largely discounted by the fact that Lords Cromer, Northbrook, and Ripon had no personal experience of the altered condition of affairs and higher military expenditure since the Russian advance in 1885, while Lords Lansdowne and Roberts were themselves responsible for the policy which it is alleged weakened the position of the Finance Minister as a check on the growth of military charges.

On the possibility of the reduction of the civil expenditure, which is beyond the imagination of the majority, the writer says "there are many who think with Lord Lytton that Indians are not employed on all occasions when they might be, and there is no question that enormous savings result from the use of indigenous labour." He deprecates the demanding and the giving of payment to Indians on the same scale as Europeans: "the cry for equal emoluments is plausible, but wholly untenable."

Apart from this fact, however, Indians could be appointed without in the least impairing the efficiency of the administration to at least half the district judgeships. In fact, they now try nearly all the difficult and important civil suits. If Hindus make, as is conceded, admirable High Court judges, why should they not be eligible for the minor office of district judge, which offices one out of three of the expensive covenanted civilians now fills throughout the country. The minority report dwells on this question of employment and on the charge of broken faith based on the Queen's Proclamation of 1858.

"It would also," says the writer, "extend unpaid Indian agency—a recommendation we see made with surprise—and would reduce secretariats—a measure which would be popular with everyone in India except the secretaries themselves—and it objects with much force to the indiscriminate grant of exchange compensation allowance." "It is difficult, in fact," he acknowledges, "to defend the action taken." Such liberality of view is highly remarkable in a great Conservative journal.

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Mr. J. E. O'Conor's annual Report on the trade of India deals at some length with the effects of the imposition of a countervailing duty upon imports of bounty-fed sugar, and confirms the anticipations we expressed at the time when the duty was imposed. The *Economist* (August 4) writes:—

Two things are certain: one that the imposition of the duty has raised the price of sugar in India, and the other that, although there was last year a sharp decline in the imports of beet sugar, those of cane sugar, for which it was intended to open the door, did not increase, but fell off slightly, the decline being specially marked in the imports from Mauritius, which it was hoped the duty would stimulate. As to the rest, Mr. O'Conor can only write that it is difficult to say with any approach to precision what effect the imposition of the duty has had upon the imports of sugar, and still more difficult to determine "whether the duty had any appreciable effect in restoring vitality to the refineries, which were alleged in 1897 to have been swept out of existence, or to be about to succumb, in consequence of the competition of foreign sugar."

There would be no difficulty at all in giving a plain answer on these points if it were possible to make such answer in terms favourable to the policy of the Government. It does seem exceedingly odd that the conditions of the refineries should have been so vividly appreciated in 1897 and should be so hopelessly unascertainable in 1899-1900. But the true state of the case is sufficiently obvious.

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Mr. Harold Cox, Secretary of the Cobden Club, calls attention to a remarkable passage in the latest Report of her Majesty's Consul at Vienna on Austrian trade, and claims justly that it fully bears out the contention of the Cobden Club when the Indian countervailing sugar duties were imposed a year ago. That contention was precisely the contention urged in our own columns, and it was this—that the main effect of these duties would be to add to the profits of Mauritian sugar-growers at the expense of the unrepresented taxpayers of India. The following is the passage:—

The uneasiness caused amongst persons interested in the export trade from Austria to British India by the introduction last year of a countervailing duty on bounty-fed sugar imported into British India has not been justified by events. The decision of the Legislative Council in Calcutta at first exercised a slightly detrimental influence on the Austrian sugar market. This, however, was only of short duration, and as a matter of fact no change worthy of special notice has taken place in the development of business between Austria-Hungary and that part of the world. It was always anticipated that the primary effect of the new impost would be to bring about an advance in the price not only of the bounty-fed commodity, but also of Colonial sugar. This supposition has proved correct, and from information to hand it would appear that by reason of the increased price demanded for both the bounty-fed and the Colonial article, it is not the Continental manufacturer, but the Indian consumer himself, upon whom the chief burden of the countervailing duty is thrown.

Just so: "it is the Indian consumer himself upon whom the chief burden of the countervailing duty is thrown." Mr. Cox adds that "the American countervailing duties, on which the Indian duties were based, have failed in exactly the same way." Of course they have.

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Even the *Englishman* is calling attention to the defects of our new currency machinery in India, and supporting the criticisms of the Bengal and Bombay Chambers of Commerce and the Calcutta Trades' Association. Our contemporary writes (August 1):—

We cannot for a moment imagine that the authorities in Simla approve of a law that forces gold into India every time that exchange rises to specie import point. The inflow of gold and outflow of silver from the Paper Currency Reserve during the past eight months must convince them that it is the demand for rupees, not the demand for sovereigns, that raises exchange to specie import point; and in their recent letters the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Calcutta Trades' Association both express the opinion that this preference for rupees will continue for many years to come. Why then apply to the imports of gold and silver for coinage a law that would be obviously absurd when applied to any other commodities? Why import two metals when one is required and thereby expand the currency and our expenditure on currency metal unnecessarily? Why not comply with the Calcutta Trades' Association and arrange for the automatic adjustment of the imports of gold and silver in accordance with the legitimate demand for each kind of currency?

The *Englishman* has suggested "that the Gold Note Act as amended by Sir Edward Law can easily be utilised for this purpose," and claims the approval of "one of the highest authorities on currency in London" for the proposals. But it is a rather wild expectation that the currency-mongers of Calcutta will incommode themselves by any consideration of "legitimate demand"—until the more or less distant day of inevitable compulsion.

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In a Memorial on behalf of the Ratnagiri Khots' Association to Lord Northcote (June 23), Mr. M. R. Bodas reviews events from the first publication of the Khoti Act Amendment Bill (No. IV of 1898), and then discusses at great length the various provisions of the Bill in the present form, and suggests fresh amendments. It is impossible for us to follow him into details; but we recognise with much pleasure the conspicuously able handling of a most complicated and difficult subject.

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In a letter to the *Pioneer* a correspondent complains of the number of Bengalis appointed to judicial offices in the North-West Provinces. This he considers a great grievance to the up-country people; and he sneers at the professions of fraternity put forward by Bengalis in the National Congress. Now it may or may not be right to admit men of one province to office in another; but it is strictly in accordance with the principles of English rule in India. If it is right to employ in India men from Europe in cases where they are the most competent, much more must it be right to employ men from a neighbouring province. Nor has the latter the same economic disadvantages as the former. It is not alleged that the Bengalis in the North-West Provinces are inefficient. The existence of British officials in India can only be justified on the ground that merit is to be preferred to locality. To accept this and to object to the employment of meritorious Bengalis outside Bengal is absurd. In after ages it may be seen that the great gift of British rule to India was not peace or good government, clogged as they have been by

depression and poverty, but unity, and the beginning of "India a nation."

Some time ago we drew attention to the hard case of Mr. Jotindra Nath Roy, a Bengal competitor for the Indian Civil Service, who twice passed the examination successfully, but was twice rejected on the ground of defective health. Mr. Roy's friends, supported by the strong and unanimous opinion of the Bengal Press, made appeal to Lord Curzon. Now Lord Curzon has appointed Mr. J. N. Roy to the fifth grade of deputy magistrates in the Bengal Service, at the same salary (Rs. 400 a month) he would have drawn as an assistant magistrate in the Covenanted Civil Service. Moreover, as the *Tribune* of Lahore says, "hope has been held out that, after he passes his departmental examination at the end of a year, and is invested with first-class powers, he will be at once promoted to the fourth grade and draw a salary of Rs. 500 a month, and that later on he will be appointed to one of the listed appointments of the Civil Service (district judgeships and district magistrateships) which have been thrown open to the Provincial Service." This arrangement is very satisfactory in the circumstances, and does much credit to Lord Curzon's good sense. Of course, the notion that Mr. Roy's exclusion "was only a clever dodge on the part of the Civil Service Commissioners for gradually closing the doors of the Civil Service against Natives of India" is simply nonsense. An Englishman would have fared in exactly the same way—only he would not have had open to him the compensation that has fallen to Mr. Roy. The case should be useful in impressing the much-needed lesson that Indian candidates must attend to their physique as well as to their books.

Kallar Sayadan, in the Rawalpindi district, appears to be an unfortunate place for Hindus to live in. As far as we can make out from a copy of a Memorial addressed by the Hindu inhabitants of this place to the Viceroy, there is urgent need for enquiry into the circumstances under which "punitive police at the annual cost Rs. 1,101 14a. 4p. has been quartered at Kallar for a period of two years for the misconduct of its inhabitants." In Kallar Sayadan there are said to be twenty-eight proprietary families—fifteen Hindu, and thirteen Mahometan; but the cost of the punitive police has been charged to the Hindus alone, and a crushing cost it is. The memorialists would hardly profess that they are totally ignorant of their alleged "misconduct," if it were publicly patent, or if the Government had specifically informed them. They seem to trace all their trouble to the appointment of a particular chowkidar, whom they distrusted deeply and whom the officials upheld. Indeed, they suspected that the police "were rather inimically disposed" towards them, and "rather abetted the commission of crimes against them"; whereupon "fifteen private watchmen were retained by them on September 1, 1899, and since then not a single theft or burglary has occurred at Kallar." It is impossible for us to try the case, but it does look as if this village needed, not a dose of punitive police, but a touch of local self-government. There must be something seriously wrong in the case, and we do not doubt that Lord Curzon will cause effective enquiry to be made.

Certain Mahometan itinerant dealers, of Persian extraction, were more or less roughly handled by the police at Galsi in the Burdwan district, and found no one to listen to their complaints. "Suddenly on the 17th day of April, 1900," runs their petition for transfer of their case to some other district for trial, "the district magistrate passed an order on your petitioners to appear before him, and as soon as they did so he ordered eight of your petitioners to be kept in *hajut* without informing your petitioners of the charges under which they had been ordered to *hajut*, and although your petitioners had tendered sufficient security." In this order the district magistrate, it was stated, said of the petitioners, "I think they have done as they liked within the district, and I want to have them convicted now." Mr. Foley, the magistrate, explained that these words were "part of a note addressed to the District Superintendent of Police," which was confidential, and that "by some one's stupidity it was filed with the record of one of the cases," the word "convicted" being copied for "worried." This is not the whole case of the Persian traders, but one would think it was about enough to show Mr. Foley's bias and to secure the transfer of the case to a more judicial atmosphere. Besides this, on April 20, the petitioners applied to the deputy magistrate for time to move the High Court for transfer; but the magistrate, on reference, desired that no time should be given, and accordingly the application was refused. Moreover, when the district judge called for the record, Mr. Foley stated officially that it was his particular wish that the petitioners should not be released on bail, although six of the eight of them were charged with bailable offences; but the district judge released them all on bail. The High Court, however, did not detect any evidences of bias sufficient to satisfy them that the traders would not receive a fair trial within Mr. Foley's jurisdiction. We regret this decision, which seems little consonant with the reputation of the High Court, and with the necessity of maintaining that reputation above the merest breath of suspicion.

The *Pioneer*, among other reasons for shelving the proposal to separate judicial and executive functions, puts forward the curious one that owing to the facilities for appeal existing in India no permanent injustice could be done. But to have to go from court to court in order to get justice is itself an injustice. Moreover, appeals are a luxury of the rich. To the poor man the right of appeal is often a mockery. The existence of appeals may be good or evil, but it can be no excuse for the confusion of the judicial and executive powers.

Appeals undoubtedly have often prevented injustice from being done; but at a great cost Sri Misir was twice convicted of murdering Nawab Feda Ali, and twice sentenced to transportation for life. Twice the High Court saved him from that fate, and on his third trial he was acquitted. So far he is to be congratulated; but the cost of his defence must have been ruinous, and the suspense terrible. To English notions there is something fine in justice being at last triumphant; but this is not the Indian notion of justice.

Dipchand through his counsel, Babu Harendranath Sen, made a complaint to Colonel W. Carr Calthrop, Principal Medical Officer, Assam, against Major Fink of the Medical Service. The result can hardly have been pleasant to the Major. According to the *Tribune* Colonel Calthrop expressed his regret that any European officer, much more one of the Indian Medical Service, should have behaved so rudely, but begged that all legal proceedings should be stayed, Major Fink who had given much trouble having been transferred to Fort Arjal in the Lushai Hills, as a punishment.

From Natal papers dated as far back as March last, we learn that "instructions have been issued by the Government education authorities to the teachers in the Government schools not to admit 'off-coloured' children into the schools." The "off-coloured" people's taxes, which go to support these public schools, are not rejected, but exacted; it is the "off-coloured" people's persons that are objected to, just because they are "off-coloured." This is "Imperial" Natal all over—a byword and a reproach to the Empire. If the children of these fellow-subjects of ours—and of the white Natalians—are not to be admitted to Government schools, then their educational taxes should be applied to the provision of schools of their own. If the racial antipathy would be stereotyped thereby, at any rate the injustice would be lightened. This is said to be the course that the Government intend to adopt—to establish special schools for the "coloured" population; but these schools should have been ready before they commenced their exclusive operations. The order in question applies only to fresh admissions, but there can be no doubt that sooner or later the instruction lately given will have to be withdrawn. In 1877 a like attempt to exclude St. Helena children was summarily put down on appeal to the British Government; but now that the colony is self-governing, it remains to be seen whether the Colonial Office, in view of the blatant "loyalty" of Natal, will pluck up courage, on the final "settlement," to read the Natalians a much-needed lesson in the elements of Imperial duty and humane feeling. There are surely already in South Africa racial animosities enough and to spare.

## THE NEW POLICY.

LAST week we commented generally on the Resolution of the Government of India modifying the plague policy to the extent of a practical reversal of the course of treatment disastrously followed during a period of four years. We must add this Resolution to our "Signs of Advance," for there is not a single modification of the past policy that Indians have not contended for, while the Government stuck tenaciously to its own nostrums, which it now takes credit for abandoning. The importance of the matter is enhanced by the magnitude of the calamity of the plague. From Bombay it has travelled far and wide over India, and its ravages have been obscured by the overshadowing famine and its attendant diseases. The *Pioneer*, as we mentioned a fortnight ago, estimates the deaths from plague in the Bombay Presidency alone during the past four years at the appalling total of 300,000—the population of a very considerable city. Add to this figure some reasonable estimate for the plague deaths elsewhere in India, and then reflect on the private suffering and the social disorganisation involved. Yet practically all this misery has been hidden from the British people by the famine, while in fact, so far as India was concerned, it has constituted a calamity within a calamity. In any case the administration of relief ought to have been conceived on the most careful and sympathetic principles; with the addition of famine the duty became, if possible, still more urgent. The Government, however, reckoned without the people, relying on Western ideas and Western sanitary notions, and in the teeth of protest to the point of riot and murder maintained its official principles. Now, after the most painful and unnecessary experiences on the part of the afflicted people, the Government learns from the Plague Commission that "the coercion of the people into compliance with regulations against plague is not a practical policy," and admits the clear teaching of experience "that the first principle of all plague measures should be that, except in extraordinary circumstances, compulsion should be eschewed, and that the efforts of Government officials should be directed to convincing the people of the utility of particular methods, and to inducing them to carry them out not by force but by the exercise of their own free will, and as a consequence of their appreciating and understanding the benefits to be anticipated therefrom." Yes, but some of us told them so from the first. Why did they wait four years to find out that? Must we recall yet again the recorded opinion of Colonel Thomas Best Jervis—an opinion amply confirmed by many another old-time British official of eminence—that "the secret of managing the natives of India" is simply "to treat them as they are—as intelligent, open to reason, and perfectly reconciled to any reasonable purpose made plain to their understandings"?

The Commission state that "it was impossible to predict, when the outbreak commenced, which measure would succeed and which would not succeed." That may be; but there need have been no doubt whatever that no measure would succeed, however well intended and however right in the abstract, if it was carried out in such a way as to do violence to the rooted convictions and prejudices of the people themselves. We may join the Commission in lauding "the fertility of resource and the unceasing vigilance of the different Local Governments and Administrations," and yet refuse to shut our eyes to the obvious fact that all the energy and devotion of officialdom might be wrecked on the rock of unintelligence—unintelligence through lack of sympathy. Where is the use of telling us that "the motives of Government were constantly misconstrued"? The Resolution says:—

> At different times rumours were widely circulated that the Government desired to poison the people, the object of its action being variously stated to be the reduction of the super-abundant population, the spread of the disease in order to deter foreigners from invading India, the seizure of the people's money and property, the propitiation of the plague demon, and the permanent consolidation of British rule in India. Among other absurd rumours that were circulated was one that the intention of Government was to interfere with the religion and caste of the people, and to destroy caste and religious observances, with the ultimate design of forcing Christianity on the Natives of India. These rumours, perhaps natural among an ignorant and suspicious population, were, the Government of India regret to say, encouraged at different times and places by persons whose education and position made it impossible that they themselves could be ignorant of the motives of Government, and whose duty it was to assist instead of hindering the efforts by the State to save the people in spite of themselves.

In these words the Government placidly record their own condemnation. So long as the people in the mass are left uneducated, it is the part of the Government to reckon at every step with such misunderstandings, not to complain of them, for they are plainly inevitable. The Government themselves acknowledge a lurking sense that they are "perhaps natural." Of course they ought not to have been "encouraged" by any persons of "education and position," but were they so encouraged? The Resolution says so, but what are the facts? We know, for instance, that the Natus were deported on some such ground as this; but we know also that the Natus did in fact, on the contrary, do all that men might to bring the real state of the plague administration at Poona to the notice of the authorities. The passage cited appears to have been introduced to save the face of the Government with the British people, and we need not trouble ourselves further with its futilities and doubtful suggestions. The essential thing is that the Government regard the results as having "established it as an axiom that it is hopeless to carry out effectively any system of plague administration which runs counter to the feelings, susceptibilities, and prejudices of the people"—an axiom, however, that was already, as we have seen, "established" generations ago for all men willing to learn from the experience of others.

The first section of the Plague Commission's work was an enquiry into the "methods of obtaining information regarding the occurrence of cases and plague deaths." The methods of discovery of plague cases are six: (1) notification of sickness generally or of plague in particular, (2) surveillance of arrivals from infected areas, (3) grant of rewards for information regarding plague cases, (4) employment of volunteer agencies, (5) inspection of villages in the neighbourhood of infected places, and (6) house visitation and house searches. The first (1) and the last (6) methods are now, after four years' worry, "found by the members of the Commission to be useful only in very exceptional circumstances." There is not a word about the irritation caused by the employment of British soldiers not under the immediate surveillance of their officers. There is not a word in answer to the unanswered allegations of the Joint Memorial of 2,000 Hindus and Mahometans (May 10, 1897) that "sometimes persons are subjected to the indignity of being forced to remove all the clothes from their bodies in the presence of the members of the search parties and other people"; that "no respect is shown to the religious sentiments of Natives, in regard to the sanctity of the kitchen and of rooms where worship is offered"; that threats and assaults are offered to occupiers "when they remonstrate against the procedure followed by the search parties in the matter of forcibly opening locks and destroying property"; that "in a few cases the modesty of Native ladies has not been respected"; and that complainants "have failed to obtain redress." These things constituted "a worse terror" than the horrors of plague and famine; but not a word of them is found in this Resolution. Well, the system is abandoned; let us be content with that. As for the other four points, they seem innocent enough. Our readers may, however, remember how the surveillance over persons arriving from affected areas worked in cases like that of Mr. Jamietram Nanabhai (INDIA, vol. ix, p. 178, March 25, 1898). But it is noticeable that the Government now consider that "the actual work of surveillance (over persons arriving from affected areas) can best be performed by the people themselves." They also conclude now that "the risk of concealment of cases is lessened where people see that the influential residents of the place have ranged themselves on the side of the authorities"—a somewhat bitter satire on the official treatment of the Natus. It is to be added that, notwithstanding the dissent of Drs. Wright and Rüffer, the Government abandon absolutely the "very unpopular" and ineffective system of compulsory inspection of corpses.

The second section of the Commission's Report considers four measures for checking plague in infected places: (1) removal of plague patients to hospital, (2) segregation of contacts, (3) evacuation of towns and villages, and (4) disinfection. The Resolution admits that "from the outset the public hospitals were unpopular," that "the more ignorant of the people regarded them

with unreasoning terror and detestation, and the higher classes were most unwilling to use them," and that "this feeling was no doubt increased by the large number of patients who died in hospital." But was the horror of these hospitals so very "unreasoning"? It is perfectly well known that they were often totally inadequate, and that the sufferings of the people, physical as well as moral, were often all but intolerable. Segregation in its strictest form and in all its subsequently modified forms alike proved practically useless, and the Government now abandon it as "ineffective and harassing," but without a word as to the painful details which have brought them to this rational attitude. The question of evacuation is rather complicated in its practical applications, but the Government evidently mean to reduce the process to the safest possible minimum, regard always being had to the feeling of the inhabitants. But what of the great object-lesson of Garshankar? Not a syllable. The question of disinfection shows the President of the Plague Commission in wide conflict with the majority, and the Resolution is largely tentative, but all in the right direction. It is, however, a strange reflection on past methods to find it laying down, for example, that "Local Governments should issue instructions to their Sanitary Commissioners for the better training of the disinfecting staff."

There is no need for us to enter into the third section of the Commission's Report, on the measures to prevent the spread of plague from infected to uninfected areas, except so far as concerns internal dissemination. The most important point is the spread of plague by railway, and it involves matters already partially anticipated. The case of Mr. Jamietram is an illustration. But it is not worth while now to recall the perversities and hardships involved in the official practice during these four years, considering how much we have done to expose them and to protest against them from time to time. For now the Commission has found that the detention of travellers "resulted in great hardship to the travelling public, and that it has not in practice prevented the spread of plague," and "the Government of India have no hesitation in condemning the detention of the ordinary traveller because he has come from an infected area." So be it—if indeed it were possible for the Government to get its apparently sensible purposes carried out with discretion. The sum of the whole matter is this:—

> His Excellency in Council entirely agrees with the views recently expressed by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces that "any rigid system of plague measures is to be deprecated, and he is the most successful plague administrator who is able to gauge the temper of the particular class of people he is dealing with, and to suit the rules to the circumstances of the place. A general system or principle must indeed be preserved, but success depends mostly on the patience and dexterity of the officer in charge and his power over the people."

Yes, on the MacDonnells, and Gatacres, and Creaghs, whose sympathy and sense obtain official recognition after the event. This has been a sufficiently painful business, but the suffering will not have been endured wholly in vain if the Government have really learned at length the elementary lesson that they can do no good otherwise than in frank co-operation with the leaders of the people and in sympathy with the masses of the people. It is a lesson which extends far beyond the limits of plague policy. The new policy, we should like to think, is animated by a temper which is henceforward to pervade the dealings of the Government with the people.

## COOPER'S HILL AND THE EXCLUSION OF INDIANS.

THE best Anglo-Indian statesmen of the past looked forward to a gradual but unbroken increase in the number of Indians filling offices of dignity and power in India. Such seemed to them the necessary purpose and result of opening the learning of the West to those who chose to avail themselves of it. They welcomed the extension of privileges and opportunities. But it is impossible to deny that another spirit now animates some at least of the rulers of the country. In proportion as the Indians have shown themselves ready to accept European education, and by this door to enter posts in the public service, leading Anglo-Indians have found their doubts as to the value of that education grow stronger and stronger. The capacity of the Indian to excel in intellectual struggles has, indeed, been placed beyond a doubt. The first place in the examination for the Indian Civil Service, the Senior Wranglership at Cambridge, and many other distinctions have fallen to them; and the plea that they are intellectually inferior to their conquerors is never heard. Their opponents take another ground. They say, with perfect truth, that success in the contests of the examination room does not of necessity imply success in the greater struggles of the world, that intellectual quickness, combined with a ready and retentive memory, is quite compatible with want of coolness in an emergency, with a low standard of honour or a want of zeal for the public good. This is true, no doubt. But the method of admission to the service of the State in India is not an Indian contrivance. It has been adopted by the rulers of the country as the best method they could find, and if it is a faulty way of separating the sheep from the goats among the candidates the fault tells equally whether the candidates be English or Indian. In the case of the High Courts, where almost alone Indians have been permitted to reach positions of honour and importance, they have shown themselves in every way worthy of them. To leave on one side the Indian judges who still sit on the bench, is there anyone with a word to say against the two Justices who have done honour to the name of Mitter? All objections to the examination system, however well founded, are wide of the mark when they are applied to the controversy as to the admission of Indians to the public service, for they affect equally all those, whether Indian or English, who enter the service by that gate.

The successes of Indians in competitive examinations, combined with the general reaction in Indian government, have now shown themselves, not in the abolition of the competitive system—for that the English public are scarcely prepared—but in the closing to Indians, wholly or partially, of various educational institutions and some grades of the educational service. The latest case of the kind is at the famous College of Cooper's Hill—a case to which the attention of the House of Commons has recently been called by a question to the Secretary of State for India. On August 7 the Secretary of State was asked:—

> Whether any alterations had been made recently in the regulations for the admission of students to the Royal Engineering College, Cooper's Hill; and, if so, would he state the particulars regarding the same, and also whether they tend to impose any restrictions on the entrance of students from India to the College, and on their passing through it to the several departments of public service for which they had been hitherto eligible.

Lord George Hamilton made the following reply:—

> The College was established to supply from this country officers for the Public Works Departments in India. Colleges were also set up in India to supply Native officers for the same departments, and at these colleges no Europeans were allowed to be trained. Recently there was a rush of Indian students to the Cooper's Hill College. Finding that in the past few years one Native student had on the average got into the Public Works Department through Cooper's Hill, I fixed for the future two appointments as the number to be annually competed for by them. Thus the main object is maintained for which the College was established, viz., the annual provision of European officers for those departments, whilst at the same time no restriction is imposed upon the limit (*sic*) of Indian students.

Now, on the face of it, this is an extraordinary answer. Hitherto, even though only one appointment per annum on an average had been obtained by Indians, there was no limit to the proportion which they might obtain. With the "rush" the average would probably have risen. Therefore there has been a limit set to the highest possible number, which for the future is to stand at two. But, surely to impose a limit on the number of appointments is indirectly to limit the number of students; or, if this effect is not produced, the injury is all the greater. To boast that the number of students is still unlimited, while condemning all but two a year to exclusion from the public service, is to glory in wasted efforts and blasted hopes.

Lord George Hamilton, it will be seen, asserts that the College was originally established to supply Public Works' officers "from this country." But in the prospectus of the College, up to this year, there was no mention of this. The College is there spoken of as "primarily maintained in view of the education of candidates for the service of the Government" in certain departments; so that, if the College had been founded exclusively for Europeans, such exclusion had apparently been abandoned. The new

prospectus interpolates "from this country," after the word "candidates," and whether this be the commencement of a new exclusion, or the re-establishment of an old one, the effect in the present generation will be the same. But if the new prospectus be studied further, it will be found to lend no support to Lord George Hamilton's contention that "no restriction is imposed on the limit of Indian candidates." Up to this year admission has been given according to the date of application, so that, if there were more applicants than vacancies, the earliest would be admitted first. Now the President of the College will arrange the order of admission in such manner "as may best secure the object for which the College is primarily maintained, namely, the training and recruitment of the European element in the departments mentioned." But it can hardly be denied that to give the preference to Europeans in the order of admission is to impose a very real restriction on the number of Indian students. Lord George Hamilton, in denying the existence of any such restriction, may keep the word of promise to the ear but cannot escape from the charge of breaking it to the mind. And, indeed, if his answer be read carefully, it will be seen that the object of the change manifestly was to check the "rush" of Indian students, and therefore, if it imposed no restriction, the new prospectus would have failed in its object.

If the case of Cooper's Hill stood alone, it would be sufficiently disquieting to all Indians who hoped that their race might enjoy some share in the government and official life of the land of their birth. But unfortunately it does not stand alone. Those who remember the Presidential Address of Mr. Bose at the National Congress of 1898 will not need to have the close parallel between the cases of Roorkee and Cooper's Hill pointed out to them. The case of Roorkee, indeed, is especially pertinent to the subject for it is one of those colleges from which students from Europe are excluded, and the existence of which is held as a justification for putting difficulties in the way of the Indians who wish to study at Cooper's Hill. Now till 1897, admission to the engineering class at Roorkee, the most important in India, and competition for its guaranteed appointments were freely open to all statutory Natives of India. But in that year, possibly as a recompense for the unbounded affection with which the Indian people had welcomed the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen, this privilege was withdrawn from "Natives of pure Asiatic descent whose parents and guardians are domiciled in Bengal, Madras, Bombay." Thus we see that while the exclusion of students from Europe, who would not be likely to go there, is used by Lord George Hamilton as a compensation for the difficulties Indians will now experience in entering Cooper's Hill, students from the greater part of India are excluded from Roorkee, which at the same time is open to the children of domiciled Eurasians and Europeans throughout the country. So that while the latter classes can choose what engineering college they will, Indians of pure Asiatic descent in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay are excluded from the most important. Yet Roorkee, henceforward connected with so disgraceful an instance of racial distinction, is one of those colleges, the very existence of which is alleged by Lord George Hamilton as a justification for the new restriction he is imposing on the Indians who wish to enter Cooper's Hill.

In the same address Mr. Bose drew attention to the reorganisation of the Education Department, the highest grades in which had long been open to and had been reached by Indians but some of the best appointments of which were now rendered practically unattainable. Seeing these facts, and the cumulative testimony they bear to the purpose of certain high authorities, Indians may well doubt whether they may not soon find themselves excluded on every side even from such small share in the government of their country as they have yet attained. But there is one strong force that fights on their side. Lord George Hamilton, try as he will, cannot hide the appalling poverty of India, nor the terrible expense of its administration. That poverty alone will sooner or later ensure the increasing employment of Indians in the public service. A wise Government would begin the change steadily and gradually while there is yet time. A foolish Government would put it off till the financial needs of the country forced an administrative revolution. In which category is posterity to place the English rulers of India?

## OUR LONDON LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, Thursday.

LONDON received the news of the relief of Pekin with apparent indifference. No flags were hoisted and there were no rejoicing crowds in the streets. The wellspring of popular emotion must have been drained dry by the Mafeking celebrations. Yet the defence of the Legations by a handful of sorely pressed European civilians was at least as notable an event in the annals of the year as the siege of Mafeking. In the perspective of history, at least, one can imagine how the two episodes will compare.

One of the most remarkable passages in the strange Chinese drama seems almost to have been forgotten. About four weeks ago the massacre of the Ministers was deemed so much a matter of certainty that members of both Houses of Parliament had arranged to attend a requiem service at St. Paul's Cathedral. Vivid descriptions of how the devoted victims met their death were published in sensation-loving newspapers, and nearly a page of the *Times* was filled with the biographies of the martyrs. Now that the latter have so happily returned to life, they may be expected to spend some pleasant hours in a perusal of the back-numbers of the morning papers. Lord Brougham once gave out a false report of his death in order that he might enjoy the luxury of reading his own "obituaries." Our fellow countrymen in China are entitled to all the pleasure they may be able to derive from this somewhat sepulchral privilege.

Unfortunately the climax of the drama does not end the play. The thrilling interest of the rescue expedition now gives place to the prosaic details of the political settlement. This is an aspect of the situation which many well-informed people view with feelings of greater apprehension than was excited in their minds by the military part of the enterprise. The negotiations threaten to be protracted and possibly inharmonious. To begin with, the Powers have to agree on a common plan of action. Will they ever get so far? Russia is credited with a desire to reinstate the Empress Regent on the throne, America with a scheme of syndical government directed by the Viceroys, England with a plan for the restoration of the young Emperor, Japan with an ambition to establish a Japanese protectorate, and so on through the whole list of the Areopagus. And after they have settled their own differences, the Allies must strike a bargain with China. The magnitude of the task opens up an endless vista of congresses and conventions, of negotiations and squabbles and possibilities of international misunderstanding to which all statesmen in every part of the world are looking forward with unconcealed alarm.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister, as someone has said, has taken the Foreign Secretary to the continent for a holiday. Comment on the inconvenience of the arrangement is superfluous. Lord Salisbury himself must have realised by this time that he made a huge mistake when he first attempted to double the two offices. He will drop at least one of them in the next Parliament, perhaps both. Nobody, by the way, seems to have observed that in his choice of a holiday resort the Prime Minister has deliberately flown in the face of the Colonial Secretary. A few weeks ago Mr. Chamberlain, replying to the anguished appeal of a holiday club, solemnly declined to pronounce on the patriotism of the Englishman who should contemplate a tour in France at the present juncture, adding that for himself he would prefer to stay at home. The implication was so obvious that Lord Salisbury's subsequent trip to the Vosges can only be interpreted as an act of flat disobedience. Perhaps, however, he treats Mr. Chamberlain's letters as he does his speeches.

A prelude to the oratory of the recess has been performed by Captain Hedworth Lambton, Mr. Winston Churchill, and Sir Charles Dilke. These three politicians represent wide varieties of political thought. One is a Liberal Imperialist, another a Tory democrat, and the third an independent Radical. Yet, significantly enough, all three happened to select as the text of their observations the deficiencies of the Government in its military preparations. This would certainly seem to indicate that a Khaki election may not be the one-sided affair that some people have predicted. Mr. Churchill's enthusiasm for army reform led him into such a passion of invective the other night that he temporarily forgot his party colours, and only remembered them when, at the conclusion of his scathing indictment of the War Office, a voice from the body of the hall offered the disconcerting comment, "And all this under an

Unionist Government!" Liberals, of course, have not been slow to point the moral of the incident.

A fourth miscalculation as to the duration and cost of the war in South Africa will shortly have to be admitted by the Government. The first blunder was perpetrated last October when Sir M. Hicks Beach presented a complacent estimate for £10,000,000. At that time we were to be in Pretoria by Christmas. Then came the second estimate covered by the Budget, and in the next place we had towards the close of the Session the supplementary demand which brought the aggregate cost up to about £70,000,000. We were then assured that nothing more would be required. The assurance, however, was given on the assumption, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted, that the war would be over "at full pressure" by September, and "at half pressure" by October. As operations are still being conducted "at full pressure" and reinforcements are still being drafted to the front, the taxpayer knows what to expect.

It is hinted in military circles that Lord Wolseley means to join hands with Lord Rosebery in a crusade against the civilian domination of the War Office. Thus described, the enterprise has a particularly unpromising aspect. The motive will doubtless be discreetly veiled, but the suspicion that it exists may have the effect of deterring many people from joining in the otherwise excellent movement for a reform of the Pall Mall bureaucracy. On that ground some of those who have this reform most closely at heart are disposed to regret the Commander-in-Chief's irruption as an orator. It is notorious that he and Lord Lansdowne find great difficulty in running in double harness, and if Lord Wolseley breaks away people will be only too apt to confuse a matter of national concern with mere personal issues.

An important factor of the situation is the approaching retirement of the Commander-in-Chief. His successor may be Lord Roberts. A year ago the favourite candidate was Sir Redvers Buller, and six months ago Lord Kitchener. Both are now under a cloud. It is just possible indeed that the peculiar difficulties of the situation may lead to a revival of the custom of reserving the post as an appanage of Royalty. The Court has never quite forgiven Sir H. Campbell Bannerman for the master stroke which led to the Duke of Cambridge's superannuation. If the Duke of Connaught were now to secure the appointment a rankling wound would be healed. Unfortunately Royalty in a matter of this kind generally spells retrogression.

## NOTES FROM BOMBAY.

### THE FAMINE.

### LORD CURZON'S ENERGY.

### THE NEED FOR ENQUIRY.

[From an Indian Correspondent.]

Bombay, August 4.

As the British public must have already learned from the telegrams, there has been a fair fall of rain in all the tracts in Gujerat, Kathiawar, Rajputana and elsewhere where the long absence of the usual monsoon had created the greatest anxiety. People were in despair at the failure of the monsoon for over six weeks. Their hearts are gladdened now. Fresh hopes have been revived in the wretched cultivators who had well-nigh resigned themselves to "Kismet" at the dread apprehension of a second year of drought. Thus the dismal situation has been greatly relieved. Last week we had as many as 15 lakhs of people in this Presidency in relief camps; but we may now witness a slow exodus. By September, in all probability, the camps will be closed. Of course, the fall of rain, though immeasurably helping the situation, will not at a bound induce prosperity among the peasantry. Their lot has been a hard one for years past. The famine, it is expected, will be over by the end of November. Things will resume their normal course. But it remains to be seen whether Lord Curzon's Government will, like its predecessor, go to sleep over the matter, or whether it will boldly and courageously grapple with the unsolved agricultural problem. How to save the rayat in times of drought in future, and avert a serious catastrophe—that is the great problem.

I have repeatedly observed that the longer the problem is left unsolved the greater will be the future danger. One would not be surprised if the exhausted patience of the docile peasant should one day, out of sheer necessity, lead to trouble on a large scale. "The rebellion of the belly" is, in my opinion, the greatest of India's dangers—yes, greater than the mythical invasion of the Russians. This, then, is the problem which should engage the attention of the Government. Lord Curzon has already displayed in many of his administrative acts those high qualities which differentiate the statesman from the mere administrator. It is to be hoped that he will not shrink from approaching the solution which so many of his predecessors in office have avoided. The time has come when the Government of India can no longer adopt the policy of the ostrich. It must be resolute and stand square at all points of the compass to resist the periodical enemy. And the first preliminary step to all agrarian reform is undoubtedly the appointment of an impartial and independent tribunal to probe to the very bottom the principal causes of agricultural poverty. For it is this poverty, growing as it is from year to year, in the opinion of competent observers, which prostrates the peasant on the very first failure of the monsoon and leaves him almost destitute of means to maintain himself. Will that wise man who by some unscrutable fate has been ruling over India these six years have the foresight and the statesmanship to institute such an enquiry? He need not go into tantrums that such an enquiry would lead to an exposure of many sins of omission and commission on the part of the infallible Indian administration. Let him be composed. Let him be calm and serenely survey the situation and take steps to do aught that is needed to relieve India of this periodic calamity. The less he thinks of Providence and the more he actively exerts himself towards getting a fair solution of the agrarian problem the better will he be thought of in years to come by the Indian people.

Meanwhile India is delighted at the energy of our Viceroy, who determinedly set out from Simla on the 30th ultimo to visit the desert tracts of Rajputana and the waterless and almost cattleless localities in Gujerat. His courage is praised, while there are no flattering words wanting for his sympathy with the millions of her Majesty's suffering subjects. Duty alone has prompted him, and India is glad that at the present juncture it possesses a Viceroy who understands what his obligations and responsibilities are. He seems to have started under the guidance of some auspicious star. For the moment he set foot in the train news of heavy rain having fallen reached him. Any other Viceroy would have retraced his steps and countermanded his orders. But Lord Curzon is made of sterner and more heroic stuff. He completed his journey, and is now finishing his original programme. He has gnoe in company with officials to Dohad—that grim colony of the sturdy but hapless Bhils—to Broach, to Nadiad, and to Ahmedabad. In the midst of mud and pelting rain this energetic Viceroy has inspected the relief camps, the poor-houses, the hospitals, and lastly the orphanages, where hundreds of parentless waifs and strays of wretched humanity are being fed and clothed by angels of mercy in the persons of good Christian missionaries and equally good Indian Samaritans. For I must repudiate that arrogant notion that Christianity alone teaches true charity. Charity is a plant sown in human nature by the Maker who is the God of all, whether he be called Jehovah or Jove, Lord or Brahma. That plant flourishes in all climes and in all ages among the nations of the earth. Long before Christianity found its ultimate home in the Eternal City the Egyptian, the Babylonian, the Assyrian, the Mede, the Persian, the Greek, and the Roman inculcated charity and wrought deeds of benevolence, mighty monuments of which still exist and evidences of which modern archæologists bring to the surface. India from time immemorial has been the land of charity. To feed the hungry and clothe the naked is the *dharma* enjoined on each unit of the population. "As is the *dharma* so will be the *karma*" was not spoken of old by the seers in vain.

The question of remissions of land revenue still absorbs public attention in Bombay. An elaborate and comprehensive letter appeared last week over the signature of "J." in the columns of the *Times of India* which deserves special notice. If ever engineer was hoist with his own petard, then, it may be said that the Bombay Government has been so hoisted by "J.", with its own statistics and its own resolutions. That correspondent, who is a master of statistics and knows how to marshal and analyse them, has completely exposed the sophisms of Mr. Monteath. He has proved to the hilt the popular

charge that, even in the terrible famine we are passing through, the Bombay Government has been able, by means of pressure, to collect 60 or 70 per cent. of its total land revenue demand from the miserable rayats. Yet it talked of its paper resolutions, and so forth, that none unable to pay should be coerced. The resolutions themselves are so worded as to leave no option to the underlings, who are not, again, an immaculate body. It is to be hoped this severe exposure by "J." will open the eyes of the powers that be at Westminster, and that some new departure in the land revenue policy will be ordered. Meanwhile, I think some pertinent questions will be asked on this and cognate topics at the meeting of the local Legislative Council convened on the 22nd instant.

Some of the yellow Anglo-Indian papers here are already beginning to bark and yelp at the Viceroy. His righteous interference in the matter of the Chupra and the O'Gara cases has exercised their nerves. The specious pleas and stock arguments which have been heard time out of mind are once more trotted out. The Viceroy is informed that he has no business to interfere in the administration of justice. Had his lordship done anything of the kind, there might have been some excuse for the arraignment. But it is all moonshine. The Viceroy has only exercised his undoubted authority in purging the judical administration of blots which threatened to cause a grave scandal. For the very purity of justice, for the very reputation of all that is just and impartial in British Indian administration, it is the bounden duty of a Viceroy to visit with his severest displeasure miscarriages of justice and take steps to prevent such discreditable occurrences in the future. But this is just what the organs of the beneficed bureaucracy resent. In India they hold it as a fetish that no white man can do any wrong. Therefore no white man need be punished. Even if brought to the bar of justice, he must go scot-free. This is considered by the Yellow section of the Anglo-Indian Press to be the very perfection of British justice. And woe be to him, be he Viceroy or be he a less exalted personage, who destroys that fetish, especially in the case of the Service. The "heaven-borns" are "heaven-borns." Their errors must not be noticed. They must be condoned. It is a sacrilege that the white Brahmin of the Imperial Service should be dragged before the public and upbraided or punished. Hence the anathema maranatha on the head of the righteous Viceroy. What next? Are they going to punish him as they did that other righteous man, Lord Ripon? But Lord Curzon, too, is a strong man and doubtless smiles at the folly of his maladroit accusers.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

### ENLISTMENT IN INDIA.

To the Editor of "India."

Sir,—I hope the Indian National Congress and the British Congress Committee will be pleased to take up the cause of the Natives of India in the matter of enlistment, so as to remove the class disabilities imposed on some of them by the partial and arbitrary order of Government. It should be borne in mind that it is English discipline and drill that make an efficient soldier and not birth in a particular class or caste.

From the beginning of English rule in India, recruits for the native army were enlisted from all castes and races of India. They lived on parched grain in time of war, and sometimes abstained from food for days together. With the exception of men from Upper India, who mutinied in 1857, the men from all the castes and races served the English Government most faithfully and loyally, and under English training and discipline proved to be very efficient soldiers in acquiring the Indian Empire for the English.

Now, when peace is reigning over the land, a new order has been promulgated in the year 1895, and recruits are enlisted only from the so-called warlike classes, or races and castes such as Sikhs, Jats, Rajputs, Mahratas, Kshatrias, Mussulmans, etc., and the other races or castes are denied the privilege of serving any more in the army. All races and castes of India are war-like and courageous by nature. They have fought with each other, and with foreign nations from time immemorial. The armies of Native Kings and Princes were composed of men recruited from all the castes, and they fought just as well as the soldiers of other nations do. No distinction of caste has been made hitherto in the selection of men either by the Native Rájás or the English Government. Nor do such distinctions appear to be made in selecting men for the army all over the world.

The Hindus, or Indians of all castes, have proved to be good soldiers at all times, and have never been wanting in courage. Their services have been acknowledged as efficient and praiseworthy by eminent English generals, and many a Native soldier has been rewarded with distinction and the Order of Merit by the English Government for bravery.

The men of castes other than the selected castes now serving in the army are denied promotions and are pensioned off as being no longer required. When the whole of India is brought under English sway, the descendants of men of all the castes who fought and served the English Government for two, three, or even four generations, are told that they are not fit for soldiers' duties because they do not belong to a particular class or caste. They are thus debarred from serving their country, and acquiring some distinction in becoming eventually jamadars and subhedars, the highest goal of ambition to which they could aspire under the English Government. This order is calculated to render almost the whole Indian nation, with the exception of the favoured castes, in a few years more unwarlike, and to extinguish the military genius amongst them.

It is prayed that the English Government, which is justly celebrated all over the world for impartiality, justice, and large sympathies, will re-consider the order and recruit sepoys, as before, from all castes and races who may be found physically and mentally capable and fit for the duties of a soldier.—Yours, etc.,

V. R. Ghollay.

Poona, *July* 27, 1900.

## THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

### 5,688,000 ON RELIEF.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following telegram from the Viceroy, dated August 20:—

"Rainfall, heavy and general, has continued in most affected tracts. Crops promise well in Central Provinces and Berar, and sowings being actively prosecuted elsewhere, and general situation improved greatly in Central Provinces: increase in number on gratuitous relief in free kitchens, necessity for which will shortly disappear. Prices very high everywhere still, indication depleted stocks or lingering apprehensions. Cholera prevalent throughout Hyderabad and in Bombay.

"Numbers of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,476,000; Punjab, 150,000; Central Provinces, 2,309,000; Berar, 324,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 90,000; Rajputana States, 244,000; Central India States, 90,000; Bombay Native States, 362,000; Baroda, 88,000; North-Western Provinces, 1,000; Punjab Native States, 33,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 48,000; Hyderabad, 439,000; Madras, 7,000; Bengal, 27,000. Total, 5,688,000. Bombay returns incomplete."

The Secretary of State for India has received the following telegram from the Governor of Bombay, dated August 20, 1900:—

"Following are figures for week ending August 11 last:—Famine-stricken districts, 5,686 cases of cholera, of which 3,704 were fatal. Native States—cases of cholera, 6,947; deaths from cholera, 4,935. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts, 7,008, or 4 7-10 per mille. A much-needed break in the rains has occurred in Gujerat, Kathiawar, which have received heavy and most useful rain. In the remainder of the affected tracts rainfall to date generally sufficient, though more is required in Carnatic. Number on famine relief shows a decrease."

### THE MANSION HOUSE FUND.

The Mansion House Fund for the relief of the Indian famine sufferers amounted on Wednesday night to £360,000.

The *Morning Leader* wrote on Wednesday:—It is gratifying to learn that the Mansion House War Fund now exceeds a million sterling. The fund is designed for the most excellent purposes, and the larger it becomes the more useful and commendable will it be. Unfortunately, however, there can be no doubt that the claims which it has made, and rightly made, upon the liberality of the public have had the effect of preventing charitable persons from giving help in certain other directions. That was inevitable from the moment when war broke out. There is no question of blame in the matter, but at least it behoves sensible and humane men to consider what efforts can be made to meet in other ways the claims which have thus been unavoidably neglected. The strongest of these claims is the bitter cry of our starving fellow-subjects in India. They are in the throes of

the most intense of all recorded famines, a famine which, on a modest calculation, involves at least thrice the need of private charity in comparison with the famine of 1896-7. Yet, because of the war, the Mansion House Fund for India amounts only to a little over one-third of what it realised in the earlier year. The need of supplying this grave deficiency is manifest, and the duty is brought home to us in a striking way by the news that it was a remittance of over £900 from India which brought our War Fund up to the million. There is only one way in which the duty can, in the special circumstances, be adequately discharged. We must fulfil collectively the duty in which as individuals we have fallen short. Almost the whole Press of the country, and almost every citizen in the country, is in favour of a national grant towards the relief of famine. How much longer will the Government shrink from giving effect to the national will?

## THE "INVESTORS' REVIEW" FUND.

We take the following from the current issue (August 18) of the *Investors' Review*:—

Subjoined is the list and amount of subscriptions received for our little fund up to date. May we again repeat that it is a fund, every farthing of which will be put to good uses, especially in helping the starved cultivators to replace their lost cattle, and that the more help we can give in this direction the sooner will the distressed provinces and Native States—for they cannot be forgotten in the present misery—recover some of their ancient prosperity? Cheques and postal orders should be drawn to A. J. Wilson, crossed Union Bank of London, Famine Fund Account.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amount acknowledged last week .. .. | 778 | 17 | 1 |
| H. N. Gladstone, Esq., Cornhill, E.C. .. .. | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| "Tibberton," Gloucestershire, collected by Miss Alison Garland (per INDIA) .. .. .. | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| "C. B.," Ross, Herefordshire .. .. .. | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Total to date .. .. | £830 | 9 | 7 |

Remittances should be made to Mr. A. J. Wilson, *Investors' Review* office, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

## "TO THE RESCUE!"

Mr. Felix Moscheles has written the following appeal which, after being published in *Concord*, is now being circulated in leaflet form:—

Are we for ever going to talk, argue, debate, in and out of Parliament, on the most pressing need, the most imperative duty of the moment?

One can understand that a thousand and one measures, beneficial to the long-enduring people at home, must be shelved, whilst we are so busily engaged in inflicting our benefits abroad. The unprivileged Englishman must just do without a decent home, or, when a block occurs in the working of our so-called free institutions, without water or bread, or, perchance, without a respectable coffin. One can understand that. The people of England are accustomed to it. And they really don't deserve much better, for they cheerfully support those who want a hundred millions or so to carry out some glorious scheme of conquest, and they shout themselves hoarse with joy when they think they are getting their money's worth. They quite take in the situation, and so they are reasonable enough to see that they cannot have all good things at once. In their eyes, I suppose, the joys of a Mafeking night or of a Pretoria day compensate for the advantages to be derived from pensions for the old or employment for the young. Well, let them wait. They have waited so long that they can wait a little longer.

But how about India? Has our conscience lost every shred of independence? Is our moral nature, our sense of shame, so blunted, that we calmly accept the infamous theory of "the inevitable"? that we listen with sympathetic regret—or is it with stolid indifference?—when we are told that there is "no precedent" for doing more than we are already doing to save life, and that, as far as a Government Grant is concerned, India must be left to her fate?

Five or six millions of our fellow-subjects starving for want of a few paltry millions of pounds sterling whilst we are just spending many times that amount for the acquisition of a handful of new subjects, on whom we propose to bestow the blessings of our paternal rule! And we go on talking, arguing, and debating, and are mighty clever explaining how this famine had to come about, and what differentiates it from preceding famines. A dispensation of Providence it is, perhaps; or the natural consequence of the development of the railway system, enabling the rayats to send their foodstuffs to distant markets instead of husbanding them in view of the evil day; or is it the taxgatherer, the manipulator or speculator? or—anything but the truth, the ugly truth, that we are feasting whilst our brothers are starving; that their fleshless skeletons are falling in groups at the very time when we are driving out in irreproachable attire, to be gorged with food we do not want?

I care not what is the sophistry that can silence the voice of conscience, or what paltry sums, collected in ball or concert rooms, in palace or cottage, are deemed sufficient to acquit us of further moral obligation. The fact remains that *more* money is wanted. We have refused the grant of five millions, and thus signed the death warrant of the famine-stricken. Slow death, we know, they are doomed to; torture we inflict of as cruel a kind as the torture the savage can inflict. Not a woman or a child to be spared! Wholesale massacre!

Civilisation can boast of much. It can send out missionaries, teach natives how to fight scientifically and to drink habitually. It can launch ironclads and war loans, but it cannot cope with the heart-rending calamity visiting mankind to-day. Or rather, it can, but it will not.

Now the man in the street—that is, the ordinary mortal who cares not to bandy words and chop logic when an appalling tragedy is being enacted—goes straight to the point. Sackcloth and ashes for civilisation, I say, as one of those men in the street. Away with the flowers and fruit from your overladen tables! If the State coffers are depleted, and you cannot otherwise replenish them, sell your horses and shut up Hyde Park, or shorten your war by a day or a week to save a few millions of those pounds sterling you are so lavishly spending. Do it in any way you like, but do it! Defer your pleasures, postpone every other duty till this one is performed!

There is, there must be, in this country a voice, the collective voice of the English people, to make itself heard. There must be a united will that can force those who hold the nation's purse to override considerations of precedent, of policy, of red tape, and to act as each of us would act individually if we stood face to face with a tottering victim, if we witnessed the ghastly spectacle of a starving fellow-creature.

## INDIAN EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS.

### CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA AND MR. DADABHAI NAOROJI.

The following are extracts from the important correspondence to which reference was made in INDIA on July 20 last (p. 27).

Mr. D. Naoroji wrote on May 21, 1900, to the Under-Secretary of State for India:—

"I shall feel very much obliged if you would kindly supply me with all rules and regulations, and any other necessary information, about appointments in this country by the Secretary of State for India to the higher services in India, of the Public Works Department, of the Police, and Education. Or kindly refer me to any publications in which I can get this information."

Mr. Naoroji wrote on May 26, 1900, to the Under-Secretary of State for India:—

"I thank you very much for so promptly sending me the papers I asked for.

"(1) 'Indian Educational Appointments.' In this paper the qualification laid down is 'distinguished graduates of universities of the United Kingdom.' I have to request you to explain whether her Majesty's Indian subjects, if so qualified (as well as otherwise qualified as required by the Paper), will be eligible and fairly treated for these appointments; or whether a race distinction is made and Indians are excluded. It is necessary to make this clear." . . . .

On June 26, 1900, the Under-Secretary of State for India wrote to Mr. Naoroji:—

"I am directed by the Secretary of State in Council to reply as follows to the enquiries contained in your letter of May 26, 1900:

"(1) *Indian Educational Appointments.*

"I am to refer you to the answers given by Lord George Hamilton to questions by Sir W. Wedderburn asked in the House of Commons on March 3 and April 4, 1898. Copies of the questions and answers are enclosed for your information."

*Copy—Question asked in the House of Commons by Sir William Wedderburn. No. 42, dated March 3, 1898.*

"To ask the Secretary of State for India whether up to the year 1896 members of the Educational Service in India, without distinction of race, had the opportunity of rising by merit to the highest positions in the service, and did in fact rise to those positions:

"Whether in consequence of changes introduced in 1896 Indians are now in actual practice debarred from promotion to certain higher posts, which are exclusively reserved for persons appointed in England by the Secretary of State:

"And whether he will place upon the Table the new rule by which this disability is created."

*Answer*:—"My answer to the first of the three divisions of the hon. member's question is in the affirmative. To the second my answer is in the negative. The effect of the changes made in 1896 was (while preserving vested interests and prospects of promotion in the graded test) to transfer to the Provincial Educational Service certain high appointments which had hitherto been filled by nomination in this country, thus practically reserving them for Natives of India; while as regards such appointments to the Indian Educational service as will be henceforward made by nomination in this country, there is nothing to prevent the selection of Natives of India, and it was specially provided in 1896 that a Native of India if thus selected, should receive the same pay as an European, and not as before, two-thirds only; besides having of course the same chances of promotion.

"There is therefore no such new rule as the hon. member supposes."

*Copy—Question asked in the House of Commons by Sir William Wedderburn. No. 61, dated April 4, 1898.*

"To ask the Secretary of State for India whether there are any appointments in the Indian Educational Service which are specially reserved by the new scheme for persons appointed in this country, and which persons appointed in India are precluded from holding:

"Will the Secretary of State give a list of these appointments:

"And was there any rule or regulation precluding persons appointed in India from holding these appointments previous to the adoption of the new scheme in 1896."

*Answer*:—"As I stated on March 3, the effect of the new scheme upon the Indian Educational Service has been to transfer to the Provincial Service certain high appointments hitherto filled by nomination in this country thus practically reserving them for Natives of India. As regards the appointments reserved for persons selected in this country (who, as I explained, may be Natives of India) I regret that I cannot give a complete list, but, subject to the deduction of

those posts which have been transferred to the Provincial Service, they remain practically as they were before the introduction of the new scheme."

Mr. Naoroji wrote on June 29, 1900, to the Under-Secretary of State for India:—

"I have received your letter of 26th instant (J. and P. 1021) *Indian Educational Appointments.*

"I am thankful to read that for the appointments to be made by the Secretary of India 'there is nothing to prevent the selection of the Natives of India.'

"Now the question is how this eligibility of the Indian is to be practically given effect to. Suppose a vacancy occurs and an Indian desires to apply for it the applicant, whether in or out of the Government educational service, has, as I understand, to apply through the chief educational officer of the Province. This officer has to forward the application to the Provincial Government who have to send it on to the Government of India, and the Government of India have to send it to the Secretary of State. This procedure takes time. I wish to know whether the Indian applicant will be allowed time enough to have his application received by the Secretary of State and fully and carefully considered by him, or will every applicant be able to apply directly to the Secretary of State."

The Under-Secretary of State on July 12, 1900, wrote to Mr. Naoroji:—

"In reply to your letter of the 29th ult., regarding appointments to the Indian Educational Service, I am directed to say that persons desiring to be considered candidates for appointment should forward their applications, with testimonials and references, direct to the Secretary of State for India at the India Office."

## PUBLIC MEETINGS ON INDIAN QUESTIONS.

### THE WORK OF THE BRITISH COMMITTEE.

On July 16 Miss Alison Garland addressed a drawing-room meeting at the house of Mrs. Frankland, Porchester Terrace, London, W., on the Indian Famine. Miss A. L. Browne, President of the Paddington Women's Liberal Association, presided. An interesting discussion followed Miss Garland's address, and a collection was taken, which was subsequently made up to £10, this being the second collection made by the Paddington Women's Liberal Association.

On July 19 Miss Garland addressed a town's meeting at Bradford, at which the Mayor presided. Lord Sandhurst was among the speakers, and letters were read from Sir John Jardine and Mr. N. B. Wagle. In the course of her speech (reported in the *Bradford Observer*) Miss Garland said:—

The famine was the worst experienced in India within living memory, and yet while the deaths were very much greater than the Government statistics would ever disclose, what had we done as a nation to help the sufferers? Some people had been pleading in season and out of season for a Parliamentary grant. (Hear, hear.) The world at large had not been backward in giving assistance. Canada, the United States, New Zealand, Australia, France, Germany, and other countries were all contributing. The little island of Trinidad had voted £500, and the Sultan of Turkey had subscribed £500, which would be increased by taxation to £5,000. . . . . The dignity of the Empire was being lost sight of altogether in such an emergency. With the world at large contributing there certainly ought to be a Parliamentary grant. (Hear, hear.) Ordinary charity had its proper place, but the situation was far too serious for the relief to be left to chance support. The Indian Budget would be reached in the House of Commons next Thursday, and she believed the majority of the members of both parties would gladly subscribe a sum of five millions if they had the chance. Let the money go in time, not to bury the dead, but to keep the people alive. (Applause.)

A resolution in favour of a national grant was carried unanimously.

On July 20 Miss Garland addressed the members of the Liberal Club, Farsley, on "The Famine in India: Its Cause and Cure." Mr. Heynes presided. Many questions were put to the lecturer at the close of her address. A resolution urging the local M.P.'s to support Sir W. Wedderburn's motion on the 26th was unanimously passed. A collection was taken for the Famine Fund.

On July 21 Miss Garland addressed a meeting called by the Independent Labour Party at Pudsey. Mr. Bramley, of Bradford, presided. A good collection was taken at the close.

On July 22 Miss Garland spoke at a large gathering at Armley, near Leeds. Councillor Scare presided. A resolution urging the local member, the Right Hon. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., to support Sir W. Wedderburn's motion in the approaching debate on the Indian Budget was carried unanimously, and a collection was taken for the Famine Fund.

On July 23 Miss Garland addressed a public meeting on the Indian Famine in the Armley Park, near Leeds. Councillor Brown presided over a large gathering. A resolution urging the local M.P., Mr. Herbert Gladstone, to support Sir William Wedderburn's motion in the approaching Indian debate in the House of Commons was unanimously passed. The speakers also urged the electors present to send reminders to the member on post-cards. A good collection was taken for the Indian Famine Fund.

On July 24 Miss Alison Garland addressed a town's meeting under the presidency of the Mayor at Townfield, Keighley. Miss Garland (says the *Bradford Observer*)

gave a moving picture of the dreadful state of things which she herself had witnessed in Bombay and other places. She urged that there was real need for a large grant from the Imperial Exchequer towards relieving the distress. A proposal was going to be made in the House of Commons on Thursday night for a vote of £5,000,000, and it was of pressing importance that this should be made. It might be urged that there was no precedent for such action, but this famine was one of unparalleled severity, and in that lay the warrant for creating a precedent. Our present duty was to grant relief, and after that we should rise to a real sense of our Imperial obligations, and take steps to minimise, if not to remove, the causes of these famines.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

That this meeting expresses its profound sympathy with the starving population of India, and earnestly urges the Imperial Government to make an adequate grant, with a view of diminishing the suffering now endured by many millions of our fellow-subjects in that part of the Empire; and that a copy of the resolution be sent to the member for this division, Mr. John Brigg, and to Lord George Hamilton.

On July 25 Miss Garland addressed a town's meeting at Hawkshead. The Rev. G. A. Oak, Vicar of Hawkshead, presided. A resolution urging a national grant of five millions was unanimously passed, and a collection of about £8 was taken for the Famine Fund.

On July 28 Miss Garland spoke at an out-door meeting in Harris Park, Cockermouth, on the Indian Famine. Mr. T. Hall, of Elmhurst, presided over a large gathering. Over £13 was collected at this meeting for the Famine Fund.

On July 29 Miss Garland addressed a large gathering at Pardshaw Crag, Cumberland, on the same subject. Over £12 was collected for the Famine Fund.

On July 29 Miss Garland addressed a meeting in the Co-operative Hall, Workington, on the Indian Famine. Dr. Hyatt presided over a good attendance. The Chairman heartily endorsed the lecturer's opinion that it was a national disgrace to leave largely to private charity the work of helping India in this the worst famine of the century. Mr. Watkyn Thomas, C.C., proposed that the Mayor should be petitioned to open a fund, to which it was decided that the collection taken that evening should be given.

On July 30 Miss Garland addressed a town's meeting at Whitehaven. There was a large and representative gathering, consisting of the leading men in the town and neighbourhood. The Mayor presided, and made a sympathetic speech on the needs of India. Miss Garland gave a graphic description of her visit to the famine-stricken district, and made a touching appeal for the Fund about to be established in the town. Mr. Helder, M.P., while congratulating Miss Garland on her eloquent address, hoped that now the rains had come the misery would soon be over. In replying to the vote of thanks, Miss Garland said she would like to show the people how much private charity in England had done to relieve the famine. There were over six millions of people on the relief works. Taking the average wage at 1½d. a day, that amounted to £37,500 a day. Supposing the Lord Mayor's Fund (including private gifts to India not sent through that Fund) had reached £375,000. Then England had paid the equivalent of the wages on the relief works for just *ten* days, and the famine had lasted nearly *nine* months. The collection came to about £25, and the Mayor's Fund that night reached nearly £60.

On August 3 Miss Garland opened the debate at the City Forum, Piccadilly, Manchester, on "The Indian Famine: Should there be a National Grant?" There was an animated discussion, in which Messrs. Harry, Turner, Thompson, Whitehead, and Shengrove took part, the unanimous feeling of all Conservatives, Liberals, and Socialists being that a grant of not less than five millions ought to be sent to India.

As a direct result of the meetings addressed by Miss Garland on behalf of the British Committee during the fortnight ending August 3 nearly one thousand pounds were sent through various channels to the relief of the famine-stricken in India.

On Sunday next, August 26, Mr. G. Parameswaram Pillai, B.A., Editor of the *Madras Standard*, will deliver an address on the Indian Famine at the Mayall Progressive Club, Brixton.

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